

the end of her first year of law school, while Jerry was working for the Rocky Mountain News.

Dolores graduated from law school cum laude in June 1954. Jerry enrolled in law school in January 1958 but continued to pull night shifts at the Rocky Mountain News as a copy editor. In 1958, Jerry graduated cum laude from the University of Denver. The Kopels had the unique experience of practicing law together until 1979, when Dolores was appointed U.S. Trustee for the District of Colorado and Kansas.

In the Kopels' life-long dedication to giving back to the community and preparing the next generation for careers in law, Jerry directed a review course for law students preparing for the Colorado bar exam from 1958 through 1985.

In 1964, Jerry combined his background in journalism and his law degree to become an influential member of the Democratic Party. He served as state representative for a total of twenty-two years, spanning two decades.

Jerry was known as the consummate legislator, reading every bill and every amendment that came before the House chamber. He carried 110 bills as chief sponsor, including the nation's first sunset law.

Jerry's 22 years in the State Legislature and his extensive involvement in community issues and Colorado politics are encapsulated in "The Gerald Kopel Papers," which are housed in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection. The papers are perhaps the most extensive archive of the public career of any American state legislator from the 20th century.

After retiring from the Legislature in 1992, Jerry continued to produce a printed newsletter, titled "Jerry Kopel's Report" until 1998. However, to this day, Jerry prepares weekly reports for House Democrats and suggests amendments to bills being debated on the House floor.

Since retirement, Jerry has returned to journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Colorado Statesman and other newspapers and has joined the technological age with an extensive Web site chronicling his columns and exhibiting his extensive knowledge of Colorado politics, law, and history.

Over the years, Jerry has won numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association, most recently in 2006 in the Public Service

writing category. All of his 600-some columns were edited by his wife, Dolores. Both Jerry and Dolores have received recognition from the Denver Bar Association for 50 years of practice. Their son, David, is an attorney and author who is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

Jerry is also an accomplished cocktail pianist, and has entertained at many local functions. He has issued several fine CD's which are in my personal collection.

I have personally known Jerry and Dolores for many years, eagerly accepting Jerry's sage advice on politics and I am an ardent reader of his weekly columns. Jerry and Dolores have had a distinctive lifetime at the forefront of Colorado politics, policy, and history and their commitment to public service and the betterment of their fellow Coloradans serves as a sterling example for younger generations and those entering public policy careers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kopel and his wife Dolores a wonderful 56th Anniversary and Jerry a healthy and prosperous 80th birthday and pay tribute to their longstanding service and dedication to the City of Denver and the State of Colorado.

HONORING DISABLED VETERANS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor those defenders of liberty who do not get the honor, the respect, and the recognition that they are due. Because, Madam Speaker, as hard as we try we can never adequately repay those disabled while fighting for our freedom.

I am often reminded of a quote from President Calvin Coolidge, who was known as "Silent Cal" because he said very little. But when he spoke, people listened. One of the things he said was that "a nation that forgets its defenders will soon itself be forgotten." So, one of the things I try to do as a member of Congress is to ensure that we never forget our defenders of freedom and that I find opportunities to celebrate their achievement and to celebrate their sacrifice. That is why we are here today, to defend disabled veterans for their sacrifice.

One quality unique to disabled veterans is the continuous sacrifice they make each and every day. After the war is finished, their battle is not over. These veterans and their families will forever have a reminder of the price they paid for our freedom.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled and privileged to represent these individuals in the U.S. House of Representatives and as long as I am serving in this body, I am committed to ensuring that this nation never forgets these heroes.

HONORING THE REVEREND HUAN NGOC NGUYEN ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I would like to honor a man who exemplifies what it means to be an excellent father—a man who is a community leader, an upstanding and moral man, and a positive role model for our youth. The Reverend Huan Ngoc Nguyen, who lives in my congressional district, has done great things, and I am proud to express my congratulations to him for all he has done for our community.

Reverend Nguyen, a father of three sons and two daughters, has been married since 1945. He fled to Thailand from danger in Vietnam in 1979 and came here to the United States in 1980, where he quickly became an active and valued member of the community, eventually becoming an American citizen in 1986. Reverend Nguyen, who preaches at Houston's Vietnamese First Alliance Church, has taught Sunday school since 1985 and became a pastor in 2005.

Reverend Nguyen has long been a valued member of the community, and rightly so. On this occasion of Father's Day, I would like to recognize Reverend Nguyen for all of his accomplishments and urge people across America to look to leaders such as Reverend Nguyen as role models for their work in inspiring and engaging our youth to live productive, positive lives.